

(4) The cargo box side and end coamings are watertight.

(5) All manholes are covered and secured watertight.

(6) All voids are free of excess water.

(7) Precautions have been taken to prevent shifting of cargo.

(c) *Verifications.* On voyages north of St. Joseph, the towing vessel master must contact a mooring/docking facility in St. Joseph, Holland, Grand Rapid, and Muskegon to verify that sufficient space is available to accommodate the tow. The tow cannot venture onto Lake Michigan without confirmed space available.

(d) *Log entries.* Before getting underway, the towing vessel master must note in the logbook that the pre-departure barge inspections, verification of mooring/docking space availability, and weather forecast checks were performed.

§ 45.193 What are the towboat power requirements?

The towing vessel must meet the following requirements:

(a) *General.* Have adequate horsepower to handle the tow, but not less than the amount specified for the route in this section.

(b) *Milwaukee, Burns Harbor, and St. Joseph routes.* Have a minimum of 1,000 HP.

(c) *Muskegon route.* Have a minimum of 1,000 HP to St. Joseph and a minimum of 1,500 HP from St. Joseph to Muskegon.

§ 45.195 What are the additional equipment requirements for towboats on the Muskegon route?

The additional equipment requirements for towboats on the Muskegon route that go beyond St. Joseph are as follows:

(a) *Communication equipment.* Two independent voice communication systems in operable condition, such as Very High Frequency (VHF) radio, radiotelephone, or cellular phone. At least two persons aboard the vessel must be capable of using the communication systems.

(b) *Cutting gear.* Equipment that can quickly cut the towline at the towing vessel. The cutting gear must be in operable condition and appropriate for the type of towline being used, such as wire, polypropylene, or nylon. At least two persons aboard the vessel must be capable of using the cutting gear.

§ 45.197 What are the operational plan requirements for the Muskegon route?

The towing vessel on the Muskegon Route must have aboard an operational plan that is available for ready reference

by the master. The plan must include the following:

(a) The cargo limitations, the general operational requirements, and the special operational requirements of this subpart.

(b) A list of mooring and docking facilities (with phone numbers and area codes) in St. Joseph, Holland, Grand Haven, and Muskegon that can accommodate the tow.

(c) A list of towing firms (with phone numbers and area codes) that have the capability to render assistance to the tow, if required.

(d) Guidelines for possible emergency situations, such as barge handling under adverse weather conditions, and other emergency procedures.

Dated: October 20, 1998.

Joseph J. Angelo,

Acting Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.

[FR Doc. 98-29245 Filed 10-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-U

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 54

[DA 98-2112]

Federal-State Joint Board; En Banc Meeting on Universal Service

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; en banc meeting.

SUMMARY: The Commission has released a Public Notice that announces an en banc to discuss whether the goal of affordable telephone service is being met and whether there are policies that the Joint Board should consider recommending to continue to meet the goal of affordable service. Participants also will discuss whether federal state regulators are adequately informing consumers of the issues surrounding the new competitive marketplace and the new federal universal service support mechanisms.

DATES: Thursday, October 29, 1998, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The en banc will be held in the Commission Meeting Room (Room 856) at 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lori Wright at (202) 418-7391.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The en banc is open to the public, and seating will be available on a first come, first served basis. A transcript of the en banc will be available 10 days after the event

on the FCC's Internet site. The URL address for the FCC's Internet Home Page is <<http://www.fcc.gov>>. The en banc will also be carried live on the Internet. Internet users may listen to the real-time audio feed of the en banc by accessing the FCC Internet Audio Broadcast Home Page. Step-by-step instructions on how to listen to the audio broadcast, as well as information regarding the equipment and software needed, are available on the FCC Internet Audio Broadcast Home Page. The URL address for this home page is <http://www.fcc.gov/realaudio/>. Audio and video tapes of the en banc may be purchased from Infocus, 341 Victory Drive, Herndon, VA 20170, by calling Infocus at (703) 834-0100 or by faxing infocus at (703) 834-0111.

Federal Communications Commission.

Lisa S. Gelb,

Chief, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau.

[FR Doc. 98-29105 Filed 10-27-98; 3:38 pm]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-M

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 90

[WT Docket No. 96-86; FCC 98-191]

The Development of Technical and Spectrum Requirements for Meeting Federal, State and Local Public Safety Agency Communication Requirements Through the Year 2010, Establishment of Rules and Requirements for Priority Access Service

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission (Commission) adopted a *Third Notice of Proposed Rule Making* ("Third Notice") contemporaneously with a *First Report and Order* ("First Report") that is summarized elsewhere in this edition of the **Federal Register**. By its *Third Notice*, the Commission makes a range of proposals and seeks comment relating to public safety communications in the 746-806 MHz band ("700 MHz band") and in general. The Commission invites comment on how to license the 8.8 megahertz of 700 MHz band spectrum designated as reserved in the *First Report* and on whether to directly license each state or use a regional planning process to administer the nationwide interoperability frequencies (2.6 MHz of spectrum designated in the *First Report*) pursuant to the national interoperability plan to be established by the National